

REMARKS

The Office Action of December 27, 2002, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over the patent to D'Angelo.

Finally, it is noted that claims 3-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims applicants have canceled claims 1-7 and added new claims 8-14.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have rewritten claims 1-7 as new claims 10-14, respectively and while drafting the claims have taken into consideration the points raised by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is further respectfully submitted that the claims now on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the reference.

Turning now to the reference, it can be seen that D'Angelo discloses an automatic tire restraint for a chassis dynamometer. In D'Angelo, the wheel supporting rollers are fixed and the distance therebetween is not adjustable. Each pair of rollers cooperates with two converging wheel restraining rollers 7. These restraining rollers, not the supporting rollers, are adjustable. D'Angelo does not disclose a roller pair which includes two commonly driven wheel support rollers wherein one of the wheel support rollers is adjustable so that an axis of the roller is displaceable along a circular arc path which has a center that substantially coincides with the axis of the driving gear for driving the rollers. There is absolutely no teaching by D'Angelo of a support roller constructed as discussed above.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 7 under 35 USC 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

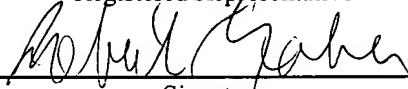
Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the event the actual fee is greater than the payment submitted or is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 27, 2003:

Robert C. Faber

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

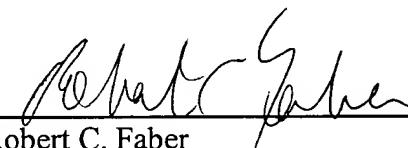


Signature

March 27, 2003

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Faber

Registration No.: 24,322

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700

RCF:KPS:cc

APPENDIX A
“CLEAN” VERSION OF EACH CLAIM
37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(ii) AND (c)(i)

CLAIMS (with indication of amended or new):

8. (New) A roller pair for a roller testing stand, comprising: two commonly driven wheel support rollers, a first of the rollers being adjustable so that a distance of the first roller with respect to a second of the rollers is adjustable, the first roller being movably arranged so that an axis of the first roller is displaceable along a path defined by a circle arc having a center that substantially coincides with an axis of a driving gear or wheel.

9. (New) The roller pair according to claim 8, and further comprising an endless transmission element arranged between the driving gear or wheel and the adjustable first roller so that the adjustable first roller is driven by the driving gear or wheel.

10. (New) The roller pair according to claim 8, and further comprising: a driving motor having a housing and an outgoing shaft that protrudes at both ends from the motor housing, a driving gear or wheel being arranged at each end of the outgoing shaft; a first endless transmission element arranged between the fixed roller and the driving gear or wheel at a first end of the outgoing shaft; a second endless transmission element arranged between the adjustable roller and the driving gear or wheel at a second end of the outgoing shaft; and a tilting arm provided between the respective rollers and the motor housing, one end of the arm being rotatable around an axis of the motor, and another end of the arm having a bearing that supports the displaceable roller.

11. (New) The roller pair according to claim 8, wherein each of the rollers has a shaft, and further comprising: two pivot arms having a first ends that support the roller shafts; a first,

driven pulley or gear being provided on each roller shaft, the second end of the pivot arms being pivotally supported so as to have a pivot axis that coincides with an axis of a second, driving pulley or gear; a first endless transmission element arranged around the first and second pulleys or gears, each of the second pulleys or gears being coaxially coupled with a third pulley or gear and a fourth pulley or gear, respectively; a driving motor having a fifth pulley or gear; and a second endless transmission element arranged around the fifth pulley or gear and the third and fourth pulleys or gears.

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12. (New) The roller pair according to claim 11, and further comprising a controlled coupling between at least one of the rollers and a corresponding pulley or gear.

13. (New) The roller pair according to claim 11, and further comprising: a control shaft centrally located in a space between the two arms; a control lever rotatable around the control shaft and having ends; and two connecting rods each having one end pivotally connected to a respective end of the control lever, each pivot arm being pivotally connected to another end of a respective one of the connecting rods, each connecting rod being directed toward the pivot arm not connected to the connecting rod.

14. (New) A roller testing stand comprising a roller pair having two commonly driven wheel support rollers, a first of the rollers being adjustable so that a distance of the first roller with respect to a second of the rollers is adjustable, the first roller being movably arranged so that an axis of the first roller is displaceable along a path defined by a circle arc having a center that substantially coincides with an axis of a driving gear or wheel.